

One would think that thirty years would be sufficient time for most British graphite perfins to have been discovered and reported, but occasionally new types still come to light.

The graphite lines were applied as an experiment in 1957 and again in 1959 to expedite the sorting of mail electronically, and are found on two types of watermarked paper, namely St. Edward's Crown and Multiple Crowns. This method of detection, however, was not a success, so in November 1959 the remaining stocks of Graphite lined stamps were overprinted with bands of Phosphorescent ink. A table showing the issues involved appears at the end of the article.

The following list represents the current status of the 33 known dies on this small but interesting group of perfins. Collectors are encouraged to report any new dies or values not on the list, as well as fill in some of the gaps and confirm the queries. Please keep a special lookout for signs of the stamps having come from coils, or possibly carrying phosphor bands.

| PERFIN DIES ON G.B. GRAPHITE LINED ISSUES – Gibbons Nos. quoted. |                  |                     |          |                      |                 |
|--|------------------|---------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|
| A2080.02   | A/EI             | 587 594             |          | K                    | 561             |
|  | AWG              | 593?                |          | L/&C°/L <sup>d</sup> | 563             |
|  | B/BB             | 594                 |          | LINE                 | 564 592         |
| B2320.01   | BE               | 594                 |          | M/C                  | 593             |
| B5150.01   | BN/SH            | 594                 |          | MV/C°                | 562             |
| C4110.01   | CK               | 593                 | N0510.05 | NC                   | 562 594         |
|  | C.P/R            | 562 564 566 590     | N1760.01 | NI                   | 594             |
| C8280.01   | C.W              | 562                 |          | P.H/C°               | 590             |
| C8530.01   | C/W/S            | 561 562 591 593 594 | R3490.01 | RM/L                 | 593             |
|  | D&G              | 566 594?            |          | SB/C                 | 561             |
|  | DHE              | 594?                |          | S&S                  | 593             |
|  | EC               | 561 563             | S8120.01 | SW/GB                | 593 594         |
| F3580.01   | FRY              | 563 594             | T4040.03 | T&S                  | 564 565 566 592 |
| F4270.01   | F.U/D.C          | 562 563 565 566 590 | W2940.01 | W/G                  | 593             |
|  |                  | 592                 | W4370.01 | WILLS                | 594             |
|  | HM/SO            | 588 599 605         | W6680.05 | W&S                  | 593 594         |
|  | J/L <sup>d</sup> | 562                 | W7020.01 | W.S/M                | 563             |

# POSTAGE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

## GRAPHITE LINED - Watermark St. Edward's Crown (212,606,880 issued)

|       | Value | Issue  | Date | Quantity   | Sheets | Booklets | Coils | Perfin |
|-------|-------|--------|------|------------|--------|----------|-------|--------|
| SG561 | ½d    | 19 Nov | 1957 | 22,748,400 | Yes    | ----     | GWY   | Yes    |
| SG562 | 1d    | 19 Nov | 1957 | 29,620,080 | Yes    | ----     | EXZ   | Yes    |
| SG563 | 1½d   | 19 Nov | 1957 | 10,506,720 | Yes    | ----     | N     | Yes    |
| SG564 | 2d    | 19 Nov | 1957 | 37,686,480 | Yes    | ----     | VT    | Yes    |
| SG565 | 2½d   | 19 Nov | 1957 | 20,578,800 | Yes    | ----     | M     | Yes    |
| SG566 | 3d    | 19 Nov | 1957 | 91,466,400 | Yes    | —        | S     | Yes    |

## GRAPHITE USED - Watermark Multiple Crowns (146,440,380 issued).

|       | Value | Issue  | Date | Quantity   | Sheets | Booklets | Coils | Perfin |
|-------|-------|--------|------|------------|--------|----------|-------|--------|
| SG587 | ½d    | 15 Jun | 1959 | 4,181,840  | -----  | Yes      | WY    | Yes    |
| SG588 | 1d    | 18 Dec | 1958 | 12,448,880 | -----  | Yes      | EXZ   | Yes    |
| SG589 | 1½d   | 4 Aug  | 1959 | 1,864,800  | -----  | Yes      | --    | ---    |
| SG590 | 2d    | 24 Nov | 1958 | 48,419,520 | Yes    | -----    | V     | Yes    |
| SG591 | 2½d   | 9 Jun  | 1959 | 10,022,800 | Yes    | Yes      | --    | Yes    |
| SG592 | 3d    | 24 Nov | 1958 | 57,222,960 | Yes    | Yes      | CS    | Yes    |
| SG593 | 4d    | 29 Apr | 1959 | 6,891,600  | Yes    | -----    | --    | Yes    |
| SG594 | 4½d   | 3 Jun  | 1959 | 5,388,480  | Yes    | -----    | --    | Yes    |

## PHOSPHOR(Green)/GRAPHITE - Watermark St. Edward's Crown (2,120,880 issued).

|        | Value | Issue  | Date | Quantity  | Sheets | Booklets | Coils | Perfin |
|--------|-------|--------|------|-----------|--------|----------|-------|--------|
| SG599  | ½d    | 18 Nov | 1959 | 707,040   | Yes    | -----    | --    | Yes    |
| SG600  | 1d    | 18 Nov | 1959 | 709,680   | Yes    | -----    | --    | ----   |
| SG601  | 1½d   | 18 Nov | 1959 | 704,160   | Yes    | -----    | --    | ----   |
| SG605a | 2d    | Sep    | 1960 | See SG605 | Yes    | -----    | --    | -----  |

## PHOSPHOR(Green)/GRAPHITE - Watermark Multiple Crowns (17,039,000 issued).

|       | Value | Issue  | Date | Quantity  | Sheets | Booklets | Coils | Perfin |
|-------|-------|--------|------|-----------|--------|----------|-------|--------|
| SG605 | 2d    | 18 Nov | 1959 | 4,509,120 | Yes    | -----    | --    | Yes    |
| SG606 | 2½d   | 18 Nov | 1959 | 689,280   | Yes    | -----    | --    | ----   |
| SG607 | 3d    | 18 Nov | 1959 | 4,654,040 | Yes    | -----    | --    | ----   |
| SG608 | 4d    | 18 Nov | 1959 | 490,560   | Yes    | -----    | --    | ----   |
| SG609 | 4½d   | 18 Nov | 1959 | 696,000   | Yes    | -----    | --    | -----  |

NOTES:

1. A total of 378,207,640 stamps were produced with Graphite Lines
2. All coils were made up from sheets except the ½d and 1d values which were from continuous reels. The N, T, M & S coils were sideways delivery for MULTIPOST type affixers, whereas the C coil was vertical delivery for POKO machines.
3. Watermarks are normally upright although inverted Watermarks from Booklets exist for SG587, SG588, SG589, SG591, and SG592.